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PLEASE STAMP TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE FOLLOWING:

In Re Application of: Michio SEKI et al.

Application No.: 10/602,678

Group Art Unit: 2614

Filed: June 25, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: ELECTRONIC APPARATUS, NETWORK SYSTEM, RELAY APPARATUS, AND
STATUS CONTROL METHOD

-
1. Information Disclosure Statement (2 Pages); and
 2. PTO Form SB/08 (1 Page) with Attached Three Documents.

Dated: January 13, 2005

Docket No.: 04329.3081-00000

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PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 04329.3081

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: |) | |
| |) | |
| Michio SEKI <i>et al.</i> |) | Group Art Unit: 2614 |
| |) | |
| Application No.: 10/602,678 |) | Examiner: Not assigned |
| |) | |
| Filed: June 25, 2003 |) | |
| |) | |
| For: ELECTRONIC APPARATUS, NETWORK SYSTEM, RELAY APPARATUS, AND STATUS CONTROL METHOD |) | Confirmation No.: 1969 |
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document on the attached listing. To the knowledge of the undersigned, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Applicants attach a copy of the listed document. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in the attached Office Action from the Japanese Patent Office in a corresponding Japanese Patent Application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed

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within three months of the mailing date of the Japanese Office Action. A copy of the Japanese Patent Office Action is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, an English language version of the attached Japanese Patent Office Action is attached. Applicants do not necessarily endorse the conclusion set forth in the Japanese Patent Office Action.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.


Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 13, 2005

By: 
Wenye Tan
Reg. No. 55,662

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(Translation)

Mailed: December 7, 2004

NOTIFICATION OF REASONS FOR REJECTION

Patent Application No.: Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-188444

Examiner's Notice Date: December 2, 2004

Examiner: Takashi MATSUNAGA 4228 5P00

Attorney for Patent Applicant: Takehiko SUZUYE (other 6 attorneys)

Applied Sections: Section 29 (2) and Section 37

This application is rejected on the grounds stated below. Any opinion about the rejection must be filed within 60 DAYS of the mailing date hereof.

REASONS

- A. The application fails to satisfy the requirements under the main provision of Section 37 in the following respects.

REMARKS

The invention as claimed in claims 1 to 7 and 10 to 12 and the invention as claimed in claims 8 and 9 neither have the same problem to be solved (do not have the problem which had been unsolved in Reference 1 as the common problem), nor have the common substantial part corresponding to the problem to be solved. Further, the two inventions are not deemed to satisfy any of the relationships defined in Sections 37 (3), 37 (4) and 37 (5) of the Patent Law.

Since the present application does not satisfy the requirements under Section 37 of the Patent Law, the inventions of the claims other than claims 1 to 7 and 10 to 12 have not been examined for the requirements of novelty, inventive step and the like.

- B. The invention as claimed in claims 1 to 7 and 10 to 12 of the

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Notification of Reasons for Rejection

Page 2/3

application is unpatentable under Section 29 (2) of the Patent Law, as being such that the invention could easily have been made by a person with ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains, on the basis of the invention described in the following publication distributed in Japan or a foreign country prior to this application or the invention made available to the public through electric telecommunication lines in Japan or a foreign country prior to this application.

REMARKS (refer to references cited)

Reference 1 (paragraph [0071]) describes that

“As explained above, according to the home electronics system of the present embodiment, home equipments (corresponding to the “other electronic devices” of the present application) can be remotely operated by a control terminal device, such as a portable telephone set, having a display screen (corresponding to the “inquiring means” of the present application). The control terminal device enables the states of the equipments to be displayed for every state and type of the equipments. Therefore, information desired by a user can be acquired quickly, and the user can remotely operate a plurality of equipments all together, and operate the equipments quickly.”

If a new reason for rejection is noticed, a further Official Action will be issued.

Reference Cited:

1. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2001-309455

Prior Art Search Report

Searched Field: IPC 7th ed. H04N 5/38-5/46

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Notification of Reasons for Rejection

Page 3/3

H04N 7/00-7/68

DB Name

Prior-Art Document:

2. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2002-44882

The result of this prior art search does not constitute the reasons for rejection.

If there is any inquiry concerning the contents of this Official Notice of Reasons for Rejection or any request for interview, please contact the following:

Takashi MATSUNAGA, Video Equipment (Television), Patent Examination
Department 4

Tel: 03(3581)1101 Ext. 6973

Fax: 03(3501)0715

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|--|---|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p> | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | Application Number | 10/602,678 | | |
| | | Filing Date | June 25, 2003 | | |
| | | First Named Inventor | Michio SEKI | | |
| | | Art Unit | 2614 | | |
| | | Examiner Name | | | |
| | | Attorney Docket Number | 04329.3081 | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | | |

| U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | Translation ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | JP 2001-309455 | 11/2/2001 | | | |
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| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.